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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

25X1 [redacted] Scandinavia-USSR: Renewed Soviet pressure on Finland has created alarm in Scandinavia. The Danish foreign minister has publicly reiterated Denmark's opposition to having atomic weapons placed on Danish soil. Swedish officials have indicated their deep concern over the threat to Finland's independent status. In Finland itself, there appears to be a growing sense of depression, and some non-Communist party leaders fear a trend toward the Communists in the February parliamentary election. [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] (Backup, Page 1)

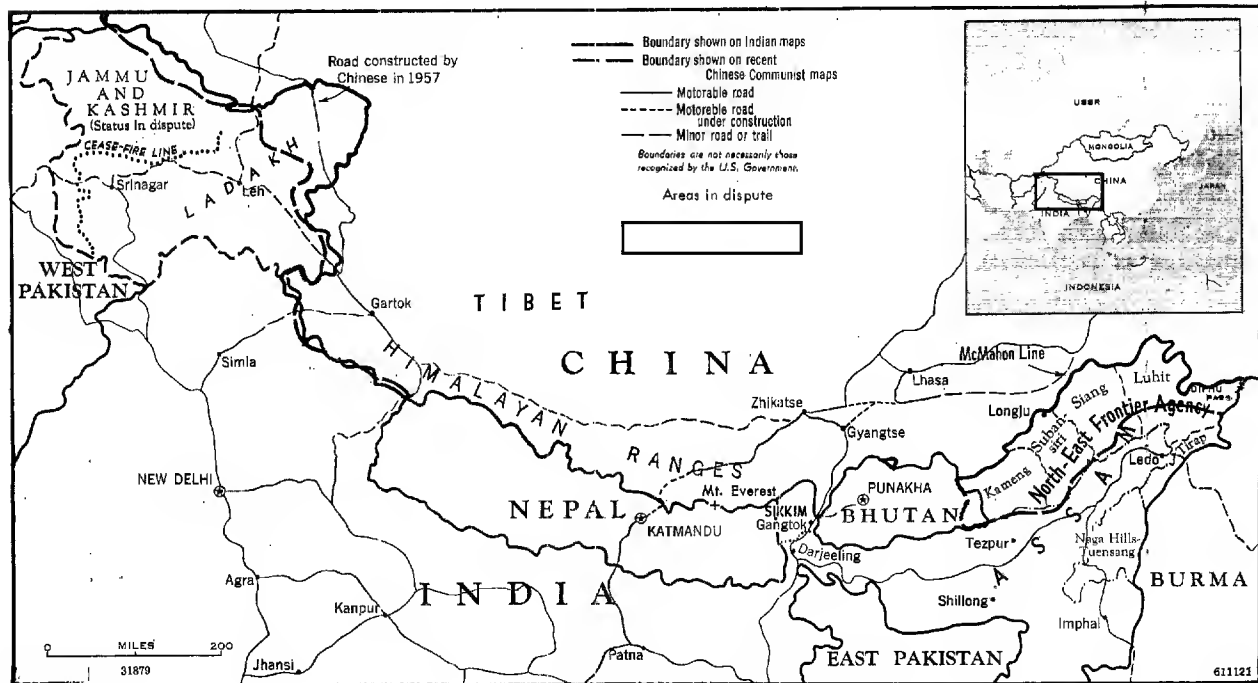
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25X1 [redacted] USSR: Khrushchev told members of the Indian Communist party in late October during the 22nd party congress that the USSR was conducting nuclear tests "only because we know that the United States has greater atomic power than we. The bombs we are exploding today are probably not known to the West. We must show them that we are ahead in some fields. This is the only effective deterrent to war." [redacted]

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25X1 [redacted] *Dominican Republic: President Balaguer has assured the American consul general that the newly appointed leaders of the armed forces acting under his orders are in control of the situation, and that he is considering further changes in military command positions. However, the US military liaison officer noted some tension and mutual suspicion among top officers he visited on 20 November. The President said he may appoint Brigadier General Felix Hermida, Jr., whom he had

COMMUNIST CHINA - INDIA BORDER AREA



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named air force chief of staff on 19 November, to the cabinet post of secretary of state for the armed forces. This post, usually held by a nonentity, now becomes the highest and potentially most influential post for a military officer, since the President has assumed the constitutional function of commander in chief.

The officers named by Balaguer to top military posts on 19 November and those under consideration for future appointment are regarded as capable men, willing to serve a constitutional government without attempting to dominate it. Moderate opposition leaders have included all of them on lists of officers who would be acceptable for high military posts. [REDACTED]

India - Communist China: Nehru's disclosure in Parliament on 20 November of new Chinese incursions into Indian territory will increase domestic pressure on his government to take more positive military measures to secure the border areas. Nehru released the text of a note to Peiping on 31 October listing a number of Chinese incursions over the past year and a half and protesting China's "further aggression." He said Chinese border forces in the Ladakh region of Kashmir in recent weeks have constructed three checkpoints well inside Indian-claimed territory. The Indian Government, whose leaders repeatedly have declared their determination not to yield "another inch" of Indian ground, may feel compelled--in view of the national elections scheduled in February--to make some show of strength along the frontier even at the risk of clashes with Chinese border units.

[REDACTED] Moscow continues to view Chinese intransigence on the border issue as a grave error. At the 22nd party congress, [REDACTED] Soviet officials criticized Peiping for failing to settle Sino-Indian differences and accused it of driving Nehru into the arms of the West. [REDACTED]

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El Salvador: The resignation of Defense Minister Rodriguez Simo on 18 November is indicative of the divisions within the Salvadoran armed forces which are weakening the provisional military regime during the crucial pre-electoral period. Opposition groups, led by conservatives opposed to the government's socio-economic reform program, have been exploiting the disunity within the military leadership in an attempt to cause the regime's ouster prior to the scheduled election of a constituent assembly on 17 December. Rumors of an impending coup have led to considerable nervousness on the part of the government, and as many as 25 arrests were made last week. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Soviet-Finnish Relations

[The possibility of an erosion of Finland's neutrality, and perhaps even its independence, has caused particular concern in Sweden, which now appears to be reassessing its military and political position. However, nothing less than a Soviet military move against Finland would be likely to cause Sweden to abandon its alliance-free foreign policy in favor of a closer military and political relationship with the West. Furthermore, the continued domination of Sweden's foreign policy by Foreign Minister Uden would seem to rule out any change short of the threat of direct Soviet action against Sweden.]

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[In both Denmark and Norway the governments have declined to reply directly to the Soviet accusations in the 30 October note to Finland. On the other hand, both governments have indicated their continuing loyalty to NATO, and Denmark has assured its allies that it intends to fulfill such NATO commitments as negotiations with West Germany for a joint Baltic Command despite Soviet propaganda and threats. The government will, however, continue to be under pressure from neutralist and pacifist elements both within and outside the government to defer action on this issue until tension in Northern Europe has abated somewhat.]

[In Finland, the secretary of President Kekkonen's Agrarian party said that the nervousness engendered by the Soviet moves, the absence of a national spirit, and the tendency in the countryside to view Kekkonen as the "Soviet President" pose the danger of despair which could only aid the Communists. The latter reportedly are conducting extensive house-to-house canvasses advising the voters it is in their interests to support the Communists because the party now is fully backed by Moscow.]

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Dominican President Names New Military Chiefs

President Balaguer is likely soon to replace the incumbent secretary of state for the armed forces, General Francisco Gonzalez Cruz, who was appointed on the recommendation of Ramfis Trujillo and who has exercised almost no influence or authority. By naming Brigadier General Felix Hermida, Jr., to the now-important cabinet post, Balaguer would be selecting an officer with an excellent reputation both among his colleagues and among leaders of the moderate opposition. Hermida, assistant chief of staff of the army until his appointment on 19 November to head the air force, was regarded as a capable officer by US military attachés formerly stationed in the Dominican Republic. When, as at present, there is no vice president, the secretary of state for the armed forces is first in line of succession to the presidency.

Balaguer also told the American consul general on 19 November that he was considering appointing Brigadier General Rafael Rodriguez Echevarria, the air force officer who led the brief military action on 19 November against the Trujillo brothers, as air force chief of staff. The 37-year-old Rodriguez, who heads the second most important military strongpoint in the country--the air base at Santiago--has been described by the US military liaison officer as "alert, aggressive, ambitious, capable, and mercurial," a rarity among Dominican generals, who had usually been selected for stolid, unimaginative loyalty to the Trujillo family. General Rodriguez' qualities have also been recognized by moderate opposition leaders, who consider him a logical and acceptable candidate to head the air force.

Balaguer also on 19 November appointed Brigadier General Luis Roman Criado to replace a member of the Trujillo family as chief of staff of the army. Roman, who until his appointment commanded a brigade garrisoned in the interior, was described recently by the US military liaison officer as the most impressive and promising of the seven brigade commanders. He also is acceptable to the moderate opposition.

The chief of staff of the Dominican Navy, Captain Enrique Valdez, was named to the post on 14 November, prior to Ramfis' resignation. He is nevertheless regarded highly as a capable and aggressive leader. [REDACTED]

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